

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-38 (Cancelled)


39. (New) A wellbore system for forming a wellbore in a formation, comprising:
- (a) a drill string having a drill bit at an end thereof for disintegrating a formation;
  - (b) a fluid system supplying fluid under pressure to the drill bit via the drill string, the fluid returning via an annulus of the wellbore; and
  - (c) a pump coupled to the annulus of the wellbore for reducing the pressure of the fluid in the annulus, the pump controlling the fluid pressure in the annulus at a predetermined pressure.
40. (New) The system according to claim (1) wherein the predetermined pressure is greater than a formation pore pressure.
41. (New) The system according to claim (1) wherein the predetermined pressure is greater than a formation pore pressure and less than a formation fracture pressure.
42. (New) The system according to claim (1) wherein the pump is one of a centrifugal pump and a positive displacement pump.
43. (New) The system according to claim (1) further comprising a fluid bypass associated with the pump.
44. (New) The system according to claim (1) further comprising one of a choke and a valve associated with the fluid system to prevent undesired flow of fluid when the pump is not operating.
45. (New) A method for forming a wellbore in a formation, comprising:
- (a) providing a drill string having a drill bit at an end thereof for disintegrating a formation;
  - (b) supplying fluid under pressure with a fluid system to the drill bit via the drill string, the fluid returning via an annulus of the wellbore; and
  - (c) controlling the fluid pressure in the annulus to provide a predetermined pressure using a pump coupled to the annulus of the wellbore.

46. (New) The method according to claim (7) further comprising providing a plot of a pore pressure of the formation; and wherein the fluid pressure is controlled relative to the pore pressure.
47. (New) The method according to claim (7) wherein the predetermined pressure is greater than a formation pore pressure.
48. (New) The method according to claim (7) wherein the predetermined pressure is greater than a formation pore pressure and less than a formation fracture pressure.
49. (New) The method according to claim (7) wherein the pump is one of a centrifugal pump and a positive displacement pump.
50. (New). The method according to claim (7) further comprising maintaining a constant flow rate at the pump using a fluid.
51. (New). The method according to claim (7) further comprising preventing undesired flow of fluid when the pump is not operating using one of a choke and a valve.
52. (New) The method according to claim (7) wherein the pump is positioned at a depth in the wellbore; and further comprising operating the pump such that the fluid pressure below the pump is lower than the fluid pressure above the pump.

Applicants deem that no fees are due with this response, but the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0429 (644-12741-USC2) maintained by Baker Hughes Incorporated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 9, 2004

  
Chandran D. Kumar  
Registration No.: 48,679  
MADAN, MOSSMAN & SRIRAM, P.C.  
2603 Augusta, Suite 700  
Houston, Texas 77057  
Telephone: 713.266.1130x128  
Fax: 713.266.8510